

## Influenza Update for Local Health - Monday October 10, 2005

We are just a few weeks into the flu vaccine season, and I know there are already some concerns, especially after how tough last year was. We are going to do our best to help the situation by keeping you informed. This is the first of a series of updates that we will be providing to share information we have. These updates, influenza vaccine press releases, and other pertinent information are available at:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/>.

### Distribution of Vaccine

Recently some LHJs raised concerns about the DOH Press Release of 10/3/05. The concern, similar to that raised on the statewide vaccine policy call, had to do with the slow and uneven distribution of flu vaccine and LHJ uncertainty as to whether they would have vaccine available to begin immunizing the general public after October 24th. I want to assure you that we hear your concern about the challenges scheduling or canceling clinics and dealing with public requests for vaccine when you do not know when or how much will arrive. We are sharing these concerns with CDC and asking for more information on distribution. I also understand that NACCHO is sharing a similar message with CDC.

Nationally, CDC continues to anticipate adequate supply to meet the demand. We are trying to provide balanced information to the public by sharing CDC's perspective, tempered by statement like "supply may vary in different communities". Please remember that manufacturing, purchasing, ordering, shipping, and overall distribution of vaccine via the private-sector market place is no different this year than in the past. The private sector system is not a system that public health can control.

### State Supplied Childhood Influenza Vaccine

DOH received another shipment of childhood influenza vaccine in the pediatric pre-filled syringe presentation. We will distribute this vaccine on 10/10 - 10/12, and will continue to distribute childhood influenza vaccine as we receive it throughout the flu season. So far, we have received: 40% of our preservative containing, multidose order; and 50% of our preservative free order.

### CDC Late Season Influenza Vaccine Supply Information

CDC has informed us that they may receive some Chiron Fluviron vaccine and MedImmune FluMist vaccine for national distribution late in the flu season. The vaccine is not part of the childhood vaccine program. We do not have information about the exact timing or amount of the vaccine Washington may receive. If you think

you might be interested in obtaining some of this vaccine, please contact Jan Hicks-Thomson (jan.hicks-thomson@doh.wa.gov or 236.3578) by November 4th, with an estimate of doses. We will keep you informed as we learn more.

#### General DOH Vaccine Distribution Update

We are aware there have been some discrepancies in vaccine shipments. You can help by contacting DOH immediately if there is a discrepancy between your invoice and what you receive. Please call: Colin Helsley 360-236-3478 or Paul Gardipee 360-236-3481 if you notice a discrepancy. We are working to resolve these issues, and thank you for your patience.

#### Menactra Update from MMWR

As of October 4, 2005, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) received five reports of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) in persons after receipt of MCV4 vaccination. FDA and CDC are alerting health-care providers to this preliminary information and are actively investigating the situation because of its potentially serious nature. The manufacturer has sent letters to health-care providers and is updating the package insert to reflect that GBS has been reported in association with the vaccine. CDC recommends that adolescents and their caregivers be informed of this ongoing investigation as part of the consent process for vaccination with Menactra. For full information from the CDC regarding this issue, please use this link to the MMWR Dispatch: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm54d1006a1.htm>

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Janna Bardi at janna.bardi@doh.wa.gov or 360.236.3568.

Thank you,

Patty Hayes, Assistant Secretary  
Washington State Department of Health  
Division of Community and Family Health